/132 cont./

C48 891 156 difficulty in learning the techniques of his group. for the years when the mind is most pliant have been lost in this regard; as for the knowledge acquired at school, it is so foreign to the life of the Refugee Blacks that at the end of a few years none of it remains except vague smatterings.

861 In general, the process of education employed among the Refugee Blacks is imitation of the adult. A child is rarely given a lesson as such. He sees something done, he tries on his own

868 initiative, and little by little he learns. For example, /133/ he sees his guardian make a boat; he is simply asked to go and get dry palm branches and to take away the chips; he hears the adults discuss the job as it goes on. At about the age of 12 or 13 he tries to make a first boat for himself with the help of an older comrade. He progressively acquires knowledge of this technique.

561 462 Boys begin to take part in farm work from the age of six or seven, principally weeding and planting. At about ten or eleven they begin to handle the machete and help to cut through the bush; at about 12 they begin to handle the axe and learn to fell trees. At 14 or 15 they begin to make small boats. An adolescent of 16 or 17 is in general capable of cutting a clearing for his mother or sister.

429 86 Most often the guardian takes his role very seriously, giving his main attention to teaching the child all that is necessary. If it is a woman, she asks her brothers to teach the techniques of boating and building.

866 461 434 [291] The principle is to develop very early a sense of responsibility in the child by making it progressively necessary for him to earn his living. The guardian does not furnish pocket money, and with the exception of a hammock every other year, no manufactured objects (children under 11-12 years not being clothed, he has almost no expenses for clothing). But he gives the child progressively chances to earn money by his work. From ten years on, the child begins to render some services: for example for the construction of a boat, he helps transport the dry palm branches intended for the burning. If the boat is being

/133 cont./

864 made for sale, the guardian gives him a small sum out of the
461 money gained. At 14 an adolescent begins to satisfy nearly all
434 his own needs.

For example, from June to December, 1958, Tass (14
983 years), son of Fontiman (Benoville) had earned about 13,000
465 francs:

June	helped his father build a large boat for the administration (65 days)	6,000
October	went to Saint-Laurent as auxiliary boatman .	3,000
December	helped convoy a boat of the border-fixing mission; went back empty to Maripasoula . .	4,000
		13,000

832 His father, entrusted with his education, let him use this
868 money as his own way, he pointed out to us with pride that for the first time in 1958 his son had been able to satisfy all his own needs, but that it was important to keep him under a firm hand until he was capable of doing a man's work alone: for that, five or six years of apprenticeship would not be too much.

868 In fact, many times we had the chance to verify it, it is
54 in this prolonged apprenticeship that are developed the seriousness
455 of mind and the technical skill so remarkable among the Refugee Blacks. At 20 years, most of them still do not know how to do
582 anything worthwhile, and it is scarcely before 25 or 27 that they
178 become capable of /134/ painstaking work; in this respect the present tendency of the young boys toward precocious emancipation (the marriage age of men is going down to 20 and even 18 years) runs the risk of having very unfortunate consequences for the future of the Refugee Blacks.

429 The person charged with the education of a girl exercises
582 the powers of a mother toward her. It is she who authorizes her to marry, and by giving her the pagi, married women's
583 garment, gives her symbolically her freedom as a woman. It is to her that the first husband pays the price of the virginity of the girl.